

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)
SUBJECT Post-War Military Conscription
Data for Latvia
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REFERENCES

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Kretinga Area

1. The first draft for military service after the war in the Kretinga (N 55-53, E 21-15) area was during the winter of 1946/1947. Those called were men born in 1927. All recruits at that time were drafted into labor battalions and were sent to Kaliningrad (N 54-43, E 20-30), where they were employed in clearing rubble. They served for about nine months, after which they were all demobilized and returned to their homes.
2. There was no conscription in the Kretinga area during 1948.
3. The next conscription was in autumn 1949. This was not a normal conscription, in that only about one or two persons from each village were conscripted.
4. In addition to the regular draft for military service, young men were called, from time to time, to fulfill the so-called "Ready for Work and Defense" norm. Such training lasted about one week, during which time the men were billeted on a kolkhoz and were instructed by an officer in shooting, running, and various athletics.

Latvian Area

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Lepaya Area

5. In autumn 1949 only about 200 men were conscripted from Lepaya (N 56-33, E 21-02) and the surrounding area. They were first sent to Kaliningrad, Tallinn (N 59-25, E 24-45), or Leningrad and after two to three months were returned to Lepaya where they did their service in various Soviet Fleet units in the Lepaya Naval Harbor, along the coast, and in the Lepaya Merchant Harbor at the lighthouse.
6. The conscription in spring 1950 was a large one, totalling approximately 2,500 men. Men of the classes of 1928, 1929, and 1930 were called up. At that time, pupils at the Technical Teachers' Seminary and the Railway School were exempted, while pupils from secondary schools were not. Among fishermen who received exemptions were skippers, mechanics, and radio operators of the State Fishing Enterprise (Gosmorlov). All other fishermen, including skippers, mechanics, and radio operators from other fishing kolkhozy, even those who were attending various technical courses, were subject to conscription. However, one man born in 1929 was deferred because his mother, aged 65, was dependent upon him for support. Another, born in 1930, was released as the quota for those born in that year had been filled. At that time approximately 1,000 men were called up from the town of Lepaya and approximately 1,500 from the Lepaya area.
7. In autumn 1950 some men of the classes of 1928, 1929, and 1930 were conscripted. At that time a total of 1,000 to 1,500 men were called from Lepaya and its surrounding area.
8. In April and May 1951 approximately 1,500 men born in 1929, 1930, and 1931 were called from Lepaya and the Lepaya area.
9. In autumn 1951 a total of approximately 1,000 men from the Lepaya area were conscripted.
10. In April and May 1952 men born in 1932 and 1933 were called, together with some men from the 1933 group, who had previously received exemptions. This draft yielded about 1,000 men from this area. Those who were in the final year of their studies received exemptions.
11. In the same draft, men aged 30 to 35 were also called into various branches of the armed forces for refresher courses of three to four months' duration. They were sent to different units all over the USSR. The absence of these men was felt all over Lepaya because practically every place of employment had in its employ men between 30 and 35, some of whom were among those conscripted.

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